(b) whether India has asked ADB to focus on 20,000 water bodies with an irrigation potential of 1.5 million hectares to be restored at a cost of $1 billion in four years;

(c) whether as per ADB's agenda, loans for strengthening and improving water resources management, alone would account for 11 per cent of the multinational banks 2006-08 assistance programme; and

(d) if so, to what extent ADB has agreed to provide loan under this scheme to India's 20,000 water bodies projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) No, Sir. Government of India has not identified water sector as one of the major sectors for Asian Development Bank's loan portfolio.

(b) No such request has been made to the Asian Development Bank.

(c) As per the Asian Development Bank Country assistance Programme for 2006-08 estimated at US $ 7.35 billion and within this, the assistance for water resources management is estimated at US $ 650 million which is about 8.8% of Asian Development Bank's assistance programme for 2006-08.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply at (b) above.

Constitution of North-East water resources authority

†855. SHRI ALI ANWAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large portion of land of the country gets flooded each year causing great destruction;

(b) whether Government have proposed to constitute a North-East Water Resources Authority in order to check this problem;

(c) whether it is also a fact that flood affect a large portion of land in Bihar each year causing severe destruction;

(d) if so, the efforts made so far in the direction of constituting the proposed authority; and

(e) the details of long-term measures of Government to control the disaster caused by floods?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir. The Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) has assessed 40 m. ha. as area prone to flood in India.

(b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to constitute a North East Water Resources Authority for management of Water Resources in North Eastern Region.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A proposal for setting up Noth East Water Resources Authority has been circulated to all North Eastern States. All States except Arunachal Pradesh are in agreement with the proposal.

(e) Long term measures are basically construction of reservoirs to moderate the floods. Many reservoirs have been identified in Ganga basin and Brahmaputra Basin in Nepal, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh.

Implementation of Rain Water Harvesting schemes

856. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps in the direction of enforcing rainwater harvesting in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rainwater harvesting facilities have not been implemented even in many Central Government buildings; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to take steps for enforcing rain water harvesting in the country. However, the Union Government has taken the following steps for encouraging rain water harvesting:-

(i) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to conserve and use rain water.